

SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 16, 2012
Waukesha County DHHS – Brookfield Room
12:00 – 1:40 PM

Members Present: Kim Emmer, Patrick Jauquet, Sherry Perez, Bonnie Siegel, Cheri Sylla, Tracey Stanislawski, Ann Shurte and Julie Turkoske

Members Absent: Kristin Brost, Deb DeMaster, Kathy Evans, Dennis Farrell, Elsa Gonzales, Lisa Fusco, Mary Jo Foye, Mary Ann Jensen, Nichole Hunkins, Tina Kasper, Pam Klintner, Teri O'Grady

Guests Present: Melissa Ferrusquia, Sharon Steinmetz

DHHS/LSS Liaisons Present: Jen Cera, Don Daniels, Missy Kueht-Becker, Trisha Nepper, Lisa Roberts, Kate Wallenslager

Agenda Item #1 -Introductions: Members introduced themselves and their roles (parent or professional).

Agenda Item #2 – Solicitation of agenda items/Approval of Minutes from 11/17/11:
Bonnie Siegel moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting; seconded by Kate Wallenslager and approved.

Don Daniels requested approval of the Annual FSP Plan. Discussion followed, including clarification of “cost averaging” and Waukesha County’s attempts to use CLTS waiver funding whenever possible, to free up FSP funds to go to children that do not have a second funding source. We have been able to serve 60% more kids by doing this. Despite that effort, there are literally hundreds of kids every year that receive no funding. Prior to Gov Doyle, counties had no funding to move kids off the waitlists. Under Gov Doyle, counties received funding for “census slots”. Under Gov Walker, we can put another child on the waiver by attrition, i.e. when someone moves, or dies. As a result, there is less movement on the waiting list. “Census slot” funding is based on the population of the county. Kate Wallenslager clarified that the County does not automatically get all those funds. We can only draw up to that amount for the children on the waiver.

Don commented that the state audited the waiver program and made several recommendations regarding FSP funds. They said that we buy things that families “want”. We need to purchase things that are more clearly related to health and safety “needs” – not just wants. Jen Cera stated that FSP workers take an “outcomes” sheet to each home visit to help parents think about their goals for their child. Julie said it is hard for some families to think about the future for their child, as they don’t want to look forward because they don’t want to face the fact that their child won’t have a normal life in the future.

Cheri Sylla moved to approve the FSP plan and Sherry Perez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Agenda Item #3 – Education Segment – Examining the relationship between SSAC and CAFSAC:

Missy Kueht-Becker is the current chairperson of CAFSAC (Child And Family Services Advisory Committee). CAFSAC is a combination of providers and community representatives. Some of the community agencies that are represented receive some funding through the County. SSAC is a subcommittee of CAFSAC.

CAFSAC meets monthly - from 8:30 am to 10:00 on the third Thursday of the month, except in April and December. Agendas are posted in advance on the County website. Part of CAFSAC's role is to make the County Board/Executive aware of the needs of children with a disability and their families. They rely on SSAC to gain that insight. Jesse Mireles and/or Missy provide reports about the SSAC committee, sharing key accomplishments and challenges. CAFSAC then presents these needs and the related outcomes to the County Board/Executive. Any interested party is welcome to attend/observe. Missy will forward CAFSAC minutes to Don, who will then ensure that they are sent to SSAC committee members. The next CAFSAC meeting is Tuesday, February 21 in the DHHS Boardroom at 3:00 pm.

Agenda Item #4 – Birth to Three Update (Statistic of the Month):

Missy provided two statistics. First, in 2011 Birth-to-Three served nearly 700 families. This is a significant decrease that is attributed to a declining birth rate in Waukesha County. (Three years ago they served 900 families.) Second, there is a new intake process for Birth-to-Three. They have implemented a centralized intake for infants and toddlers. 244 children were found ineligible for the B-3 program as they did not demonstrate a 25% delay. B-3 created a new mechanism for screening children and, in the process, made the program more efficient.

Agenda Item #5 - Future planning - new member recruitment:

Julie Turkoske, Patrick Jauquet and Don Daniels tried to reach current committee members who don't regularly attend meetings. They are trying to increase membership of parents and figure out ways to make meetings more meaningful to them. The feedback that Patrick got was that people want information but our emails are hard to read and finding information on the county webpage is difficult. He agreed that he is less likely to read an attachment versus the information being part of the email. He questioned whether there was an easier/more effective way to share information with families, and wondered about a zip file or a pdf file. Don talked with a mother who felt intimidated because she was unsure what would be expected of her. Julie Turkoske spoke with two parents who said they had conflicts with the day of the week.

General brainstorming followed. Julie wondered if it would be helpful to offer an orientation to people regarding the meeting so people would know what to expect. Cheri Sylla asked if those parents would be able to participate via teleconference/audio conference. Missy suggested a "facebook" page. Social media is an avenue we have not tried yet. Many people felt that a personal invitation from another parent is the best way to get others involved.

Sherry Perez started that it was difficult for parents to learn about available programs and services. As an example, she learned about Topps Soccer from the newspaper. Her child is in special education but she never got information from the school regarding things like this. Ann Shurte agreed that the teacher is a good person to share information with parents, but she commented that the school system doesn't always get information either. Cheri Sylla (CESA 1) said there are no parents support groups this year, due to a lack of parent response last year when it was tried (only 10 parents attended).

Sharon Steinmetz stated that she never connected the question on the FSP questionnaire, asking parents if they want additional information about SSAC to this meeting. A small three-fold brochure could be sent with the questionnaire so parents have something to read when they do the questionnaire. If we give the information initially, we need to have someone contact them and follow up to invite them.

Lisa Roberts talked about how the Children's Mental Health Outreach parents helped create quarterly training and bimonthly support groups. It is a very active committee and parents outreaching to other parents has a different feel and different reception. The parents wanted to come.

Don suggested a subcommittee to work on a new parent packet. Patrick, Julie, Kim and Don agreed to meet Thursday (2/23) at 4:00 to discuss possible next steps; others are welcome to join them. Cheri Sylla offered to share a new resource that was created with FACETS. It is a paper on the various composition of groups and how they function. Ann Shurte is willing to send it on to the Waukesha school district.

Agenda Item #6 – Agenda items for Next Meeting:

We could look at the FSP plan as an option. Tracey Stanislawski wants to bring information on the group she is involved in at La Casa. The group agreed that this would be the educational segment for the next meeting.

Don reminded us that we need to still get a co-chair. Sherry Perez expressed her willingness to be the next co-chair for this committee. Julie nominated her and Ann seconded the motion. Julie then commented we have to have it in the minutes and we have to vote at our next meeting before we can officially do this.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ann and seconded by Don at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trisha Nepper, CSW

5-17-12

Approved